



— State of —
North Dakota
Office of the Governor

John Hoeven
Governor

PROCLAMATION
BRaille READERS ARE LEADERS DAY
MARCH 26, 2009

WHEREAS, since its invention by Louis Braille (1809-1852), the reading and writing code for the blind that bears his name has become the accepted method of reading and writing for the blind the world over; and

WHEREAS, Braille is used to represent not only the alphabets of most written languages, but is also used for mathematical and scientific notation and the reproduction of musical scores; and

WHEREAS, Braille provides people who are blind with the power of knowledge, expanding their opportunities and equipping them with the tools to be productive and imaginative contributors to society; and

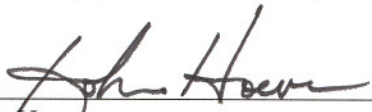
WHEREAS, despite its efficiency, versatility and universal acceptance by the blind, the rate of Braille literacy in the United States has declined to the point where only 10 percent of blind children are learning to read and write Braille; and

WHEREAS, Braille literacy is the key to independence, productivity and success for blind people, as evidenced by the fact that while 70 percent of the blind are unemployed, 85 percent of those who are employed use Braille; and

WHEREAS, the United States Congress officially recognized the importance of Braille and the decline in Braille literacy in 2006 by passing the Louis Braille Bicentennial - Braille Literacy Commemorative Coin Act, authorizing the striking of a United States silver dollar in commemoration of the 200th anniversary of the birth of Louis Braille; and

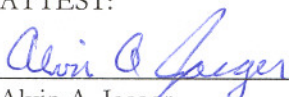
WHEREAS, the National Federation of the Blind, the nation's oldest and largest organization of blind people and the leading advocate for Braille literacy, has launched a national "Braille Readers are Leaders" campaign to promote awareness of the importance of Braille and to increase the availability of competent Braille instruction and reading materials in this country.

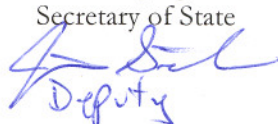
NOW, THEREFORE, as Governor of the State of North Dakota, I do hereby proclaim March 26, 2009, **BRaille READERS ARE LEADERS DAY** in the state of North Dakota.



John Hoeven
Governor

ATTEST:



Alvin A. Jaeger
Secretary of State

Deputy

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